

# Arkansas Governor's —School—

at ARKANSAS TECH UNIVERSITY™

**July 5 – August 1  
2021**

## **STUDENT HANDBOOK**



## Daily Schedule

### Daily Class Schedule

Area I: Monday-Friday 9:00 am – 9:50 am, Monday, Wednesday, Friday 1:30 pm – 2:20 pm, and Tuesday, Thursday 1:30-3:20 pm

Area II/III: Monday-Friday 10:00-10:50 am and 11:00-11:50 am

AGS Community: Monday, Wednesday 3:00 pm – 3:50 pm

AGS Talks: Monday-Friday 4:10-5:00 pm and 6:10-7:00 pm

### Cafeteria Hours

Breakfast: 7:00 am – 8:30 am (Monday-Friday), 8:00 am – 9:00 am (Saturday & Sunday)

Lunch: 11:00 am – 1:00 pm

Dinner: 5:00 pm – 6:30 pm

### Ross Pendergraft Library and Technology Center

Monday-Thursday 8:00 am – 8:00 pm

Friday 8:00 am – 6:30 pm

Saturday 10:00 am – 6:00 pm

Sunday 1:00 pm – 6:00 pm

### Health and Wellness Center

Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Suite 119

Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

479-968-0329

<https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>

## 2021 AGS General Information

You are about to embark on the experience of a lifetime. Arkansas Governor's School is a four-week residential summer program for approximately 400 gifted and talented rising high school seniors in Arkansas. Living in the residence hall will mean becoming part of a close-knit community of people, to share the opportunities and experiences.

The purpose of the Governor's School is to give students who will be future leaders in the state and nation a challenging opportunity to experience 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century theories for the interpretation of the facts. The goal of the curriculum is to provide students with a contemporary, technology-based curriculum in the three areas of (1) Academics and Arts, (2) General Conceptual Development, and (3) Personal and Social Development. The three areas are connected with a theme of Technology: Past, Present, and Future. The available courses will focus on exploring how technology has shaped our society's development and explore possible future developments. The benefits of technology will be discussed along with the challenges and ethical dilemmas. Classroom activities will be collaborative and project-based, having students put the information into the broader social and political contexts.

Our program embraces the idea that learning is not a passive experience. Our expectations are that you will embrace our challenge of excellence and accept the responsibility for your own learning by coming to this program with the determination to do your best. We also expect you to help us maintain an atmosphere conducive to learning and personal growth. This requires you, as an AGS participant, to take on some of the responsibilities that will ensure that this summer is productive. This booklet contains details about program activities and policies for students and staff to follow.

### **Governor's School Main Office:**

BazTech 202  
Arkansas Tech University  
Monday - Friday: 8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.  
Saturday & Sunday: closed  
Email: [ags@atu.edu](mailto:ags@atu.edu)  
Web: [www.atu.edu/ags](http://www.atu.edu/ags)

### **AGS Mailing Address for letters and packages:**

Arkansas Governor's School  
Student Name  
215 W. O Street  
Russellville, AR 72801

### **Computer Questions?**

Office of Information Systems Campus Support Center  
Ross Pendergraft Library, Room 150  
479-968-0646, 866-400-8022  
[campussupport@atu.edu](mailto:campussupport@atu.edu)

### **Emergency?**

Emergency Phone: Arkansas Tech University Department of Public Safety: 479-968-0222  
(Arkansas Tech Public Safety Officers can neither take after-hour messages for the AGS office nor pass on messages to AGS students, faculty, or staff.)

**If an emergency situation occurs, call 911.**

## Student Rights and Responsibilities

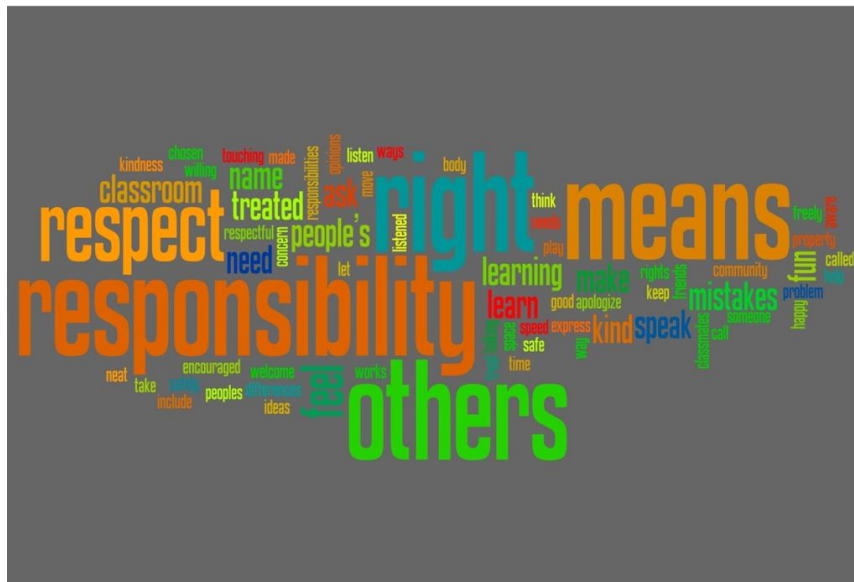
As a participant in the Arkansas Governor's School, there are certain rights that you as a student possess. Likewise, students also have responsibilities. Our expectations are outlined below.

### Student Rights:

- The opportunity to pursue an education
- A safe and secure environment
- Freedom of speech and expression
- Protection from unreasonable search and seizure
- A reasonable degree of privacy
- Freedom of religion and culture
- Freedom from discrimination
- Right to due process and to participate on a student appeals panel
- Freedom from unreasonable noise and intrusions

### Student Responsibilities:

- To actively pursue an education
- Recognize the right of the university to maintain the health, safety, and welfare of the students
- Respect others' freedom of expression
- Practice self-discipline and respect while expressing yourself
- Respect the rights of others
- Attend program activities punctually and alertly
- Comply with reasonable requests made by staff
- Contribute positively to the community



## Specific Rules of Conduct

The following rules govern and partly define the AGS community. Please be sure that you fully understand them in letter and spirit. Students will be granted “due process” in resolution of conflicts. Each case will be handled individually, and parents or guardians will be informed of all disciplinary action.



- **Hazing in any form is prohibited and will be reported. This result in immediate dismissal from the AGS program.** Hazing can be defined as any action or situation, with or without consent of the participants, which recklessly, intentionally or unintentionally endangers the mental, physical or academic health or safety of a student.
- **Any form of sexual misconduct, which includes sexual assault and sexual harassment, is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program.** Sexual misconduct is any unwelcome sexual behavior that is committed without consent or by force, intimidation, coercion, or manipulation. Sexual misconduct can be committed by a person of any gender, and it can occur between people of the same or different gender.
- **Any form of retaliation is prohibited and will lead to automatic dismissal from the AGS program.** Retaliation means any adverse action threatened or taken against a person because he or she has filed, supported, or provided information in connection with a complaint of hazing or sexual misconduct.

Respect everyone as an extension of yourself. The definition of respect is to treat individuals with dutiful regard, and to acknowledge the rights and responsibilities of a person – as an individual, or as an authority figure. Respect includes the following:

- ✓ Valuing the property of others.
- ✓ Placing value on a person as a unique individual.
- ✓ Showing consideration for everyone.
- ✓ Avoiding intrusion upon or interfering with another person’s purpose.

Additional rules:

- No student will be allowed to act in such a way that infringes upon the rights, privileges, health, or safety of other persons.
- Physical or verbal assault while participating in or attending functions sponsored by the AGS Program is prohibited.
- No student is permitted to use or possess alcoholic beverages, illegal drugs, tobacco products, vapors, or prescription drugs not approved by the AGS office. Parents will be notified and violators will be sent home immediately.
- Possession of any potentially destructive weapons such as guns, knives, etc., is prohibited.
- Students are to conduct themselves in an orderly manner. This includes refraining from excessive and unnecessary noisiness (loud talking, yelling, and laughing, etc.). Rude, discourteous behavior or using profanity toward staff persons or other students will not be permitted.
- Activities or actions that promote or suggest sexual intimacy will not be permitted. The AGS staff will judge students’ behavior and deal with it accordingly. As an AGS participant, you are requested to immediately discontinue any actions that a staff member or counselor sees as offensive or out of order. Disciplinary actions will be taken after the second warning.
- Students may not bring or use bicycles, skateboards, roller-skates, or rollerblades on campus.

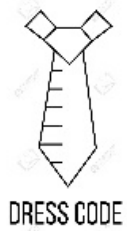
- Students are expected to attend all AGS functions unless otherwise excused by AGS staff.
- Students are not allowed in areas deemed “off-campus” without authorization. Students are expected to stay on campus for the entire length of the summer program. Only facilities authorized for use by AGS are considered “on-campus”. See the map at the end of this handbook for the designation of “on-campus” areas.
- Gambling on campus property or on program-sponsored activities is forbidden.
- No student shall take or attempt to take or keep items belonging to the University, AGS, or any of its participants or guests.
- Any damage to University property will be paid for by the student or his/her parents.
- Harassment of others on social media is strictly prohibited. This involves, but is not limited to, sending unwanted or obscene pictures, messages or files, interfering with the work of another person, sending abusive or obscene messages, using computers and printers to generate offensive media (examples: flyers, posters, e-mail, instant messages, etc...). Time-consuming recreational computer/internet use (Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, and other social media) at inappropriate times is also not permitted.
- AGS on-campus students may only use cell phones and computers in the residence halls. Cell phone and computer use is prohibited in the cafeteria, Baztech and other common spaces on campus. Individual faculty may allow cell phone or computer use in their classes for student learning purposes.
- Illegal downloading of music, programs, movies, etc. while on campus is strictly prohibited. Students may lose access to campus computers and internet connectivity if such action is tracked to their account.
- Participation in ANY ILLEGAL activities (on or off-campus) including, but not limited to, use of tobacco products on campus, the use or the intended use of a weapon, use or possession of illegal substance, or violent behavior which threatens the safety of any person will automatically result in program dismissal.

If any of these rules are broken, the student will face disciplinary action and may immediately be dismissed from the AGS program.



## Important Information

**Clothing** – Pack comfortable, casual clothes. You should expect the weather to be variable so please be prepared. We ask that you use discretion in the way you dress, and we expect modesty when dressing for the summer program. Inappropriate clothing may include, but is not limited to: short-shorts, boxer shorts, pajama pants, bare midriffs, halter tops, spaghetti straps, strapless tops, or t-shirts with offensive or unsuitable text/graphics. You may be asked to change, by faculty or a staff member, if your clothing is deemed to be inappropriate or distracts from student learning. Some of our recreation activities, such as paint war and water war, require you to get a little messy. Be sure and pack a pair of old clothes that can withstand a little stain. Some other items you may want to pack for recreation activities are gym shoes, shorts, and t-shirts.



**Rooms** – Resident hall rooms are shared by two students. Each resident is provided with 1 loft extra-long twin bed, closet area, desk, desk chair, and chest of drawers. You must provide your own sheets, pillows, and blanket for a twin-XL size bed.

**Meals** – Meals are provided at Chambers Cafeteria. Your AGS ID card will be used to access the cafeteria. You will be able to choose from a variety of meal selections that adhere to the USDA summer food program to assure nutritionally balanced meals. Students are free to pack snacks to keep in residence hall rooms.

**Toiletries** – Toiletries will not be provided so please make arrangements for your own personal hygiene products, bath towels and washcloths.

**Laundry** – Students are responsible for their own laundry. Laundry facilities are available in each residence hall at no additional charge. Students will need to bring their own laundry soap and hangers.

**Cars** – AGS students are not allowed to have cars on campus. Arrangements need to be made for students to be dropped off and picked up by a parent or guardian.

**Do not bring** cooking appliances, weightlifting equipment, skateboards, bikes, roller blades, scooters, pocketknives, firearms, fireworks, alcohol, tobacco products, or any illegal substance.

**Attendance** – Each student is required to attend classes, programs, special events, and all other activities specified as required by AGS. If for any reason a student does not attend a class or scheduled activity, his/her name will be forwarded to the program director. Lack of class attendance will lead to disciplinary action and possible dismissal from the program.

**Tardiness** – All students are expected to be on time for all classes and events. Any student who is consistently late will be referred to the program director.

**Computers, cell phones, and other electronic devices** – Laptop computers, cell phones and other electronic devices are allowed at AGS, but may only be used in the residence halls. Personal cell phone, media player, and computer use is prohibited in the cafeteria, Baztech and other common spaces on campus. Cell phones or computers may be used in classrooms only with the explicit consent of the instructor. Any violation of this rule

could result in confiscation and a referral to the program director. AGS is not responsible for damages to or loss of these items.

**Classroom disruption** – Disruption of classroom activities will not be tolerated. All incidents will be reported to the AGS program director.



**Health services** – Medical services will be available to all AGS students at the Health and Wellness Center on campus. The Health and Wellness Center is located in Doc Bryan Student Services Center Suite 119 across from the lecture hall. Hours are Monday – Friday, 8 am to 5 pm. They can be contacted by phone at 479-968-0329. Appointments can be scheduled online at <https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>. Students must present their AGS ID card and indicate that they are an AGS student when reporting for services. All AGS students must have a health form on file with the Health Center to use the services of the Health and

Wellness Center.

**Honor** – Stealing, lying, or cheating under any circumstances will result in immediate dismissal. Failure to inform AGS staff about others' rule violations, or to cooperate with AGS staff investigating suspected rule violations, will result in immediate dismissal.

**AGS ID cards** – Official AGS ID cards with lanyard must be worn at all times, unless instructed otherwise. ID cards are required for admittance into the student's residence hall and the dining hall. There is a \$25.00 charge for lost ID cards.

**Instructors and residential staff** – Our instructors come from a variety of educational backgrounds. They may be public school educators, college faculty, guidance counselors, or AGS staff. They will guide you through the academic curriculum. Our residential staff will be college graduates or undergraduate college students.

**Library** – Students may use the library for study, research, and recreational reading. Students are allowed to check items out from the library. All items must be returned before check-out. Computers, with internet access, are available for use also, as they are an integral part of the academic day and are useful in developing presentations, writing research papers, and gathering information.



**Visitors** – Due to ongoing concerns about COVID-19, there are no personal visitations allowed at AGS in 2021. Visitors to AGS during opening and closing ceremonies, legislator, alumni, and educator days must be invited and authorized by the AGS directors.

**Zero tolerance policy** – Students found involved in any hazing, sexual or illegal activities will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning. Students who are caught with any illegal substance (alcohol, tobacco, vaping, etc...) will be dismissed from the program with no previous warning.





## Residence Hall Regulations

- Students are not allowed to enter any residence hall other than the one assigned to them. Boys are not allowed to enter girls' rooms and vice versa. With the exception of check-in and check-out, no visitors are permitted in students' room at any time. If this rule is violated, students may be sent home immediately.
- Announced or unannounced room inspections may be made periodically to insure that cleanliness and care is exercised. The following items should be dealt with prior to the inspection (though routine cleanliness will eliminate the need): trash, unclean clothing, and items that produce undesirable odors!
- No candles, incense, open flame or open coil appliances are allowed in the residence halls.
- Students are not to throw trash or other debris in hallways, lounges, bathroom facilities, on stairways, or out of the windows. Trash must go into proper disposal units available at the end of each hall.
- Residents of a hall are jointly responsible for damage to public areas and each participant will be charged a share of the repair costs, should it be necessary.
- Students are to remain reasonably quiet in the residence hall and to respect the privacy and rights of other students. Should there be a problem; the student should report the incident immediately to a counselor. All incident reports will be turned in to the appropriate supervisor for further investigation.
- Students and staff members are expected to respect the privacy of others and work together in making the living experience enjoyable.
- Students are to occupy only the room to which they have been assigned.
- Roommates will be assigned by the AGS staff.
- Never loan your building swipe card to another student who has lost theirs.
- Lost swipe cards should be reported immediately.
- Never let anyone into the residence hall using your swipe card. If they are not an AGS Participant you should contact one of the residential staff.
- Never leave rooms unlocked.
- Do not play with fire extinguishers.
- Do not pull fire alarms – This is a criminal act!
- Do not overload electrical outlets. Bring a surge protector.
- Prepare for emergency exiting in advance.
- Do not play with electrical panel switches.
- Do contact your residential staff or counselor regarding any emergencies or suspicious activity.
- Never leave personal belongings unattended: The responsibility for personal belongings cannot be assumed by the program. Students are urged to exercise good judgment and caution in securing their personal belongings.
- Acts of disrespect to instructors, staff, and fellow students will not be tolerated. Violations will be grounds for disciplinary action or dismissal.

## AGS Health Protections

AGS students, faculty, and staff will follow current ATU health policies. ATU Summer 2021 COVID-19 pandemic policies stipulate that unvaccinated faculty, staff, students, and visitors must wear a mask on campus. Fully vaccinated students, faculty, staff and visitors are not required to wear a mask.

AGS students should immediately report any of the following symptoms to your RA, other AGS staff member, or ATU Health Center staff:

Fever or chills	Congestion or runny nose
Cough	Nausea or vomiting
Shortness of breath or difficulty breathing	Diarrhea
Fatigue	Open wounds
Muscle or body aches	New rash
Headache	Head lice
New loss of taste or smell	Abdominal pain
Sore throat	Any new health problem

If you or someone else is showing any of the following signs, seek emergency medical care immediately:

Trouble breathing  
Persistent pain or pressure in the chest  
New confusion  
Inability to wake or stay awake  
Pale, gray, or blue-colored skin, lips, or nail beds, depending on skin tone

Please be aware of who is in close proximity to you at all times. Paying attention to who sat beside you in class, who ate meals at your table, and who you spent time with at events or during free time (especially those within 6 ft. of you for 15 minutes or more) will help contact tracers in the event that someone is positive for COVID-19. Please wash your hands frequently, especially before meals, and limit sharing of objects with other students. If you go home for a visit, please do your best to limit people you visit and take health precautions to reduce the spread of COVID-19. After you return to campus from a visit with family, if you learn that someone you visited has tested positive for COVID-19 please report that to your RA or other AGS staff.

### ATU Health and Wellness Center

Doc Bryan Student Services Center, Suite 119

Monday-Friday 8:00 am – 5:00 pm

479-968-0329

<https://atu.medicatconnect.com/>

# AGS Leave Policy

Arkansas Governor's School is state funded, highly competitive, and interested in fostering a very strong sense of community among its participants. Therefore, it is believed to be inappropriate for students who have accepted a place at AGS to take temporary leaves from the program. Time away from the program has an undesired effect on student participation, both for the individual and for the Governor's School community at large. We know that gifted and talented students will have many quality opportunities during the summer. Although we hope that students invited to attend AGS will accept our invitation to attend for the full four weeks, we understand that other choices are available and difficult decisions must be made. For students desiring to take advantage of other opportunities that coincide with AGS, students should decline the AGS invitation which will allow another student to be invited to benefit from the entire program.

Students are expected to participate in all classes and activities. Failure to participate will result in removal from the program. Temporary leaves will be granted for certain situations and only these situations. Requests for special leaves of absence, except in the case of emergencies, must be made in writing at least one (1) week in advance and include explicit justification for the leave. Documentation may be requested to verify listed justification. A leave may be granted for the following situations:

- personal or family emergencies
- medical reasons
- weddings of immediate family members

Exceptions:

- Students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus on Sundays from 8:00 am to 6:00 pm.
- Students are allowed to be checked out by an authorized person and leave campus for one 24 hour period during the session. This is intended to give students a chance to participate in important senior year activities such as senior pictures, etc.

Please note:

- Requests for a leave of absence or a 24-hour leave must be submitted by email to [ags@atu.edu](mailto:ags@atu.edu) at least one week in advance.
- The student cannot miss more than 2 class days. (Leaves granted for medical reasons may not exceed a total of five (5) class days.)
- The leave cannot be during the first 3 days or the last 3 days of the program.
- No student may be granted more than one leave of absence.
- While taking the ACT is an important activity, there are many opportunities to take it throughout the year. There is only one opportunity to attend AGS. We strongly recommend that students do not miss AGS activities to take the ACT in July.
- Athletic practices and competitions, dance/cheerleading practices and auditions, and band practices are examples that do not qualify for a leave of absence but would qualify for a 24-hour leave.

# Computer Usage

AGS uses two principle systems for communication and sharing of course documents. We have created ATU accounts for you to access these systems. Your username and password were sent to your home address before the session. These will also allow you to login and use campus computers. Contact the Office of Information Systems, 479-968-0646, if you are experiencing any technical difficulties.

## **Blackboard**

Blackboard is our learning management system. In Blackboard, you will be able to access course documents. To access Blackboard, go to <https://bblearn.atu.edu/> and simply login with username and password given previously.

## **Webex**

Webex is used for chat and web conferencing. You can download the Webex app to your computer and/or smart phone by going to the Cisco Webex site, <https://www.webex.com/downloads.html>.

Do NOT click on “Start for Free.” AGS/ATU pays for your account so you will login with the username and password given previously. The username for Webex will be the username given above with the addition of @atu.edu. Though this looks like an email address, it is only for login to Webex and cannot actually be used as an email account. AGS communications with students will use the student’s personal email address.

## **Computer Behavior**

Students are expected to be courteous in all of their online and in-person communications and respect the rights and responsibilities of AGS students. A good rule of thumb is to maintain “dinner table rules”; communicate as you would if your parents and younger siblings were in the room.

AGS is not responsible for activities and communications on unsupported platforms; however, student conduct rules apply to AGS students regardless of the mode of communication or university platform support.

Harassment of others on social media is strictly prohibited. This involves, but is not limited to, sending unwanted or obscene pictures, messages or files, interfering with the work of another person, sending abusive or obscene messages, using computers and printers to generate offensive media (examples: flyers, posters, e-mail, instant messages, etc.). Time-consuming recreational computer/internet use (Facebook, Twitter, Snap Chat, and other social media) at inappropriate times is also not permitted.

AGS on-campus students may only use cell phones and personal computers in the residence halls. Cell phone and computer use is prohibited in the cafeteria, Baztech and other common spaces on campus. Individual faculty may allow cell phone or computer use in their classes for student learning purposes. Students are

Illegal downloading of music, programs, movies, etc. while on campus is strictly prohibited.

## 2021 AGS Faculty & Staff

Director: Robin Lasey

Area I Coordinator and Co-Director: Jeff Woods

Recreation and Activity Directors: Kevin Solomon and Emilee Smith

Residence Life Director: Delton Gordon

Office Assistant: Molly Jackson

### Area I Instructors

Choral Music: Chris Harris

Music Accompanist: Hwaju Lee

Cybersecurity: Grant Hurst

Drama: David Eshelman

Instrumental Music: Erin Cameron and Rick Dimond

English/Language Arts: Kathy Manus and Tori Sharpe

Mathematics: John Anglin and Rebecca Streett

Natural Science: Rebekah DiGiacomo, Chance Duncan, Jacob Grosskopf, Mark Meredith

Social Science: Nate Chapman, Patrick Hagge, Aaron McArthur, Justin Moss

Visual Arts: Danielle Hurst

### Area II Instructors

Area II Coordinator: Jordan Thibodeaux

Jean-Hughes Bitá'a Menye

David Blanks

Peter Dykema

Latasha Holt

John Kirk

Andrea Lively

Drew Nolley

Philip Spivey

Arwen Taylor

### Residence Life

#### M-Street Hall

Resident Director: Chase Stockton

Assistant RD: Brett Davies

Nihal Anwar

Dax Driggs

John Gardner

Alexander Horn

Donovan Lee

Warren McCombs

Jacob Six

### Area III Instructors

Area III Coordinator: Sean Huss

Samm Binns

Erin Clair

Carolyn House

Anthony Lee

Alicia Mariano

Xela McArthur

Bill Morelan

Nicole Penn

Brendan Toner

### Nutt Hall

Resident Director: Whitney McQuiston

Assistant RD: Addie Beckham

Megan Bonagurio

Zoe Clifton

Shania Cogdill

Tara Doepke

Caitlin Jane French

Kayla Hawks

Cleo McKenzie

Emily Osorto

Emilee Rotter

Sarah Smith

Madison Starks

Madison Terry

Sophie Vargas

Kayleigh Yeager

# Buildings Used

Numbers correspond to the map on the next page.

## Food

Chambers Cafeteria – 23

BazTech – 52

## Residence Halls

M-Street Hall – 26

Nutt Hall – 8

## Classroom Buildings

Corley [COR] (Cybersecurity classrooms) – 15

Dean [DN] (Area III classrooms) – 9

Doc Bryan [DB] (events) – 20

McEver [MCE] (Natural Science classrooms, Area III classrooms) – 14

Norman [NOR] (Visual Art classrooms, Area II classrooms) – 37

Ross Pendergraft Library [RPL] (Area III classrooms) – 13

Rothwell [RTH] (English, Math, and Social Science classrooms, Area II classrooms, events) – 51

Techionery [TEC] (Drama classroom) – 24

Tomlinson [TOM] (Area III classrooms) – 28

Witherspoon [WPN] (Music classrooms, Area III classroom, events) – 12

## Recreation

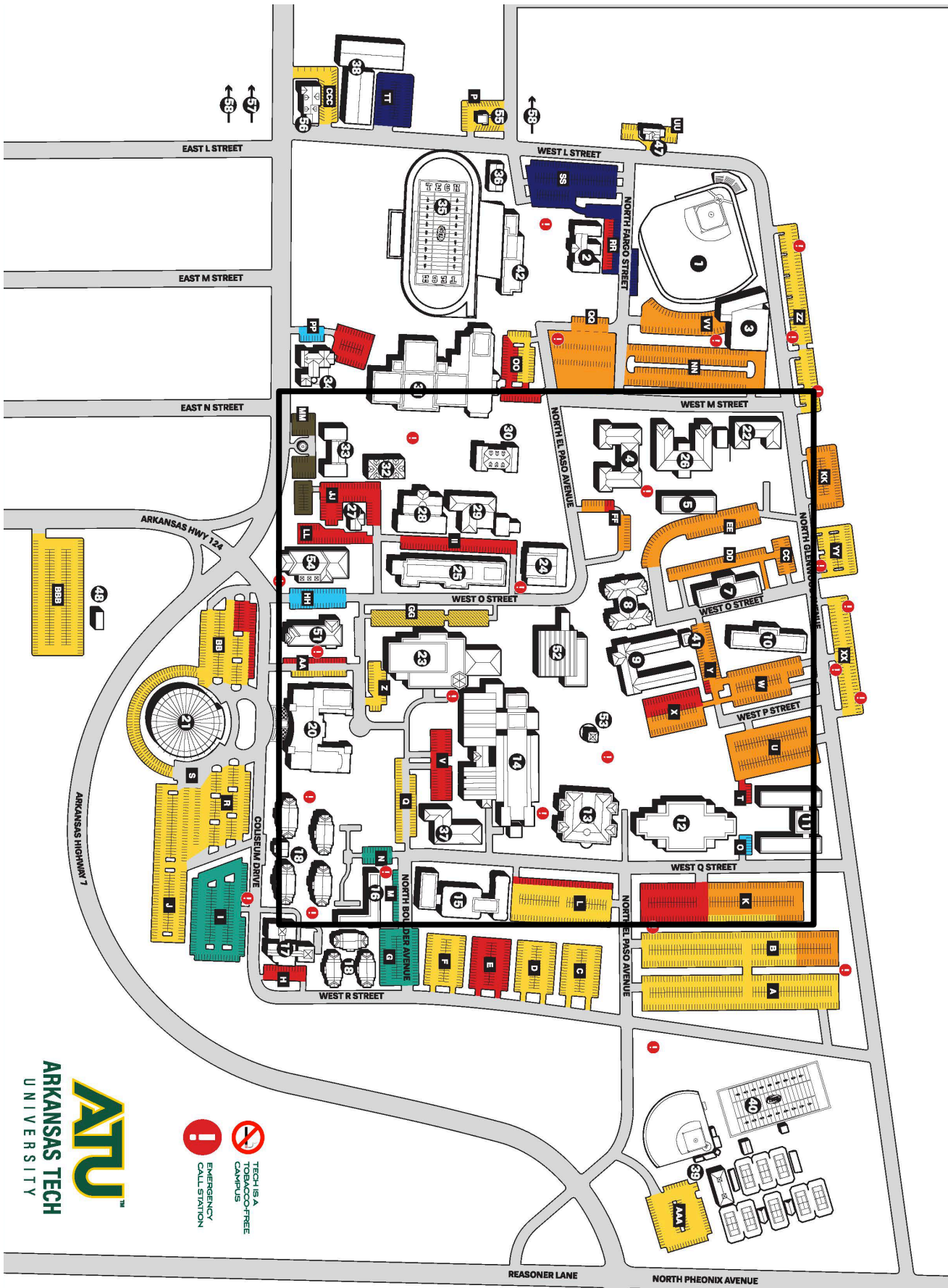
Hull – 31

Multi-sport – 3

Young – 25

Volleyball courts/Hammock grove – near parking lot Q

AGS students need to stay within the area designated by the black box on the map, unless attending a specific event outside of that area.



# **Arkansas Governor's School Alma Mater**

**-Out Of Darkness-**

Out of the darkness, out of the cave from across the natural state,  
We come together to sing your name.

Bright like a diamond, shining in the sky  
We search for knowledge, compassion, and light.

Though we are scattered, our bond is strong,  
Arkansas governor's school,  
We honor you with our voices, our lives, and our song.

**-est. July 13, 2015-**

Text by John Andrews (AGS '05; AGS faculty 2014-2018) music composed by Stefan Cwik (AGS faculty 2012-2014) commissioned by AGS